

Fair tonight; showers and cooler tomorrow.

The Washington Times

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ROBERT J. WYNNE GETS PORTFOLIO OF POSTOFFICE

First Assistant Appointed Postmaster General by the President to Succeed the Late Henry C. Payne.

MAY RETIRE AFTER CAMPAIGN
IN FAVOR OF MR. CORTELYOU

Career of Former Newspaper Correspondent—His Hard Fight to Convict the "Grafters."

President Roosevelt today appointed Robert J. Wynne Postmaster General to succeed the late Henry C. Payne. Mr. Wynne has been Acting Postmaster General by Presidential order since Mr. Payne's death. Today's appointment makes him a member of the Cabinet.

The new Postmaster General is a veteran newspaper man, having been the Washington correspondent of the "New York Press" for a number of years prior to his appointment as First Assistant Postmaster General two years ago. He is a member of the Gridiron Club, the famous social organization of Washington journalists and is one of the most popular men in the profession.

A Son of New York.

Mr. Wynne was born in New York city in November, 1852, and was there educated in the public schools. He removed to Philadelphia, and learned telegraphy, working in the gold and stock board, eventually becoming chief operator of the Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph Company. After living eight years in Philadelphia, Mr. Wynne came to Washington. His first newspaper work was on the "Cincinnati Gazette," under Gen. Henry V. Boynton, who trained him as a Washington correspondent. He wrote for the old "Gazette" and the "Cincinnati Commercial Gazette," until 1881, when he was appointed private secretary to the Secretary of the Treasury, Charles Foster of Ohio.

Returns to Journalism.

On the election of President Cleveland, Mr. Wynne returned to journalism as a correspondent of the "Cincinnati Tribune." His letters and dispatches on national politics, the tariff, and finance obtained for him recognition and exclusive engagement on the "New York Press," an ultra-protection and gold-standard paper.

Mr. Wynne is the president of the Gridiron Club, and a member of the Loyal Legion, and the Army and Navy Club. His father served in the Mexican and the civil wars. Mr. Wynne's oldest son is a captain in the Marine Corps, and has served with distinction in Cuba, the Philippines, and China.

The appointment of Mr. Wynne probably means that Mr. Cortelyou, who was promised the position last spring when he retired from the Department of Commerce and Labor to become chairman of the Republican National Committee, will not claim the portfolio until the first of the year, or in the event of President Roosevelt's election, till the fourth of next March.

Before Mr. Payne's death, the plan was for him to retire early after the election and be succeeded by Mr. Cortelyou.

Mr. Payne's death, occurring at the time it did, made necessary the appointment of a Postmaster General before the election, the law providing that there shall be no vacancy in the Cabinet for more than thirty days.

Must Remain at Post.

The President wishes Mr. Cortelyou to continue as chairman of the Republican Committee until the election. His choice for the vacancy naturally fell upon Mr. Wynne, and the appointment comes to him as much as a reward for his earnest work as First Assistant, as in the line of promotion. It will also permit Mr. Cortelyou to take a much needed rest after the campaign.

To Robert J. Wynne belongs the credit for the sweeping investigation of the Postoffice Department which resulted

in the uncovering of gross irregularities in the conduct of Machen and Beavers. Mr. Wynne had not been in the department a week before he became convinced that the methods of these two men were such as would not, for a minute, be tolerated in any good business office. He soon saw, also, that there was a disposition on their part to give him to understand that he was there as First Assistant Postmaster General merely to sign papers and not to ask any questions about them.

His Pointed Questions.

Immediately Mr. Wynne began asking questions. In addition to verbal queries he made formal requests for reports on the purchase of supplies from the committees appointed to make such purchases. He found that no records had been kept of these purchases. As soon as this and other definite information was in his hands, he reported the matter to President Roosevelt. Then the storm broke.

Powerful friends of Machen and Beavers, who, for obvious reasons, were extremely popular at both ends of the Capitol, began working against Wynne. Mr. Payne himself refused to believe that Machen and Beavers were other than honest officials.

The President was approached by powerful politicians, in Congress and out of it, who were sure to praise the accused men. So great was the array of influence against Wynne, so earnest the praises of Machen and Beavers, that Mr. Roosevelt himself began to wonder.

Wynne's Bold Stroke.

Then it was that Wynne made his bold stroke. He requested a thorough investigation of the office of the First Assistant Postmaster General, and the political allies of Machen and Beavers realized what manner of man they had to deal with. One United States Senator filed charges against Wynne with the President, which charges were promptly rejected.

Machen himself boldly declared that he would get Wynne's scalp, adding that he never went after a man that he did not get him. That crystallized matter and it became a question of who would capture the rag. The local fans here and in Boston are intensely interested in the result of today's games evidenced by the large crowds that came up to see the contest.

Hard Crowd to Beat.

Against him were the Postmaster General, half a dozen of more powerful Senators and Congressmen and many other influential politicians. Wynne staked not only his official position but his personal reputation on the result, and fought as he had never fought before, to win in the end one of the greatest political victories ever achieved, for the whole fight.

Robert J. Wynne is the third newspaper man to become Postmaster General. Frank Hatton held this office from 1881 to 1884. The President was on the side of Wynne, as were also six prominent United States Senators and the whole corps of Washington newspaper correspondents, with the exception of two men.

Some phases of the terrific struggle that went on in the Postoffice Department during the course of the investigation will probably never be known. The President was on the side of Wynne, as were also six prominent United States Senators and the whole corps of Washington newspaper correspondents, with the exception of two men.

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